

CLAIMS

1. A method of assessing speech quality transmitted via a packet based telecommunications network comprising the steps of:
 - storing a sequence of intercepted packets associated with a call, each packet containing speech data, and an indication of a transmission time of said packet;
 - storing with each intercepted packet an indication of an intercept time of said packet;
 - extracting a set of parameters from said sequence of packets; and
 - generating an estimated mean opinion score in dependence upon said set of parameters;characterised in that the extracting step comprises the sub steps of:
 - generating a jitter parameter for each of a sequence of stored packets in dependence upon the difference between the transmission time of a stored packet and the transmission time of a preceding stored packet of the sequence; and the difference between the intercept time of said stored packet and the intercept time of said preceding packet; and
 - generating a consecutive positive jitter parameter for said stored packet in dependence upon the polarity of said jitter parameter for said stored packet and the polarity of said jitter parameter for

any preceding stored packets.

2. A method according to claim 1, in which the
extracting step further comprises the sub step of
5 determining a maximum value of said consecutive
jitter parameter for a sequence of stored packets.
3. A method according to claim 1, in which the
extracting step further comprises the sub step of
10 determining a variance value of said consecutive
jitter parameter for a sequence of stored packets.
4. A method according to claim 2 in which the extracting
step further comprises the sub step of
15 determining an average for a sequence of said maximum
values.
5. A method according to claim 3 in which the extracting
step further comprises the sub step of
20 determining an average for a sequence of said maximum
values.
6. A method according to claim 3, in which the
extracting step further comprises the sub step of
25 determining an average for a sequence of said
variance values.
7. A computer readable medium carrying a computer
program for implementing the method according to claim 1.

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8. A computer program for implementing the method according to claims 1.

9. An apparatus for assessing speech quality transmitted
5 via a packet based telecommunications network comprising:
means for capturing and storing a sequence of
intercepted packets associated with a call, each
packet containing
speech data, and
10 an indication of a transmission time of said
packet;
means for storing with each intercepted packet an
indication of an intercept time of said packet;
means for extracting a set of parameters from said
15 sequence of packets; and
means for generating an estimated mean opinion score
in dependence upon said set of parameters;
characterised in that the means for extracting comprises:
means for generating a jitter parameter for each of a
20 sequence of stored packets in dependence upon
the difference between the transmission time of
a stored packet and the transmission time of a
preceding stored packet of the sequence; and
the difference between the intercept time of
25 said stored packet and the intercept time of
said preceding packet; and

means for generating a consecutive positive jitter
parameter for said stored packet in dependence upon
the polarity of said jitter parameter for said stored
packet and the polarity of said jitter parameter for
5 any preceding stored packets.